

Having described the invention, the following is claimed:

1. A method of disseminating information relating to litigation pending in a plurality of courts of law, said method comprising the steps of periodically reviewing records in a plurality of courts of law to obtain data relating to lawsuits filed in each of the plurality of courts of law, transmitting the data obtained from the records in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law to a database, accessing the database with terminals which communicate with the database by a network, and transmitting at least a portion of the data from the database over the network to the terminals which access the database.

2. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of reviewing records in a plurality of courts of law includes determining the identity of the plaintiff, the identity of the defendant, and the cause of action for each of the lawsuits filed in the plurality of courts of law, said step of transmitting data obtained from the records in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law includes transmitting data indicative of the identity of the plaintiff, the identity of the defendant and the cause of action for each of the lawsuits filed in the plurality of courts of law to the database.

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3. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of reviewing records in a plurality of courts of law includes determining the disposition of lawsuits filed in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law, said step of transmitting data obtained from the records in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law includes transmitting data indicative of the disposition of lawsuits filed in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law to the database.

4. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of reviewing records in a plurality of courts of law includes determining the identity of the attorney or attorneys filing lawsuits and the cause of action for lawsuits in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law, said step of transmitting data obtained from the records in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law includes transmitting data indicative of the identity of the attorney or attorneys filing lawsuits and the causes of action for lawsuits filed in each of the plurality of courts of law to the database.

5. A method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said step of reviewing records in a plurality of courts of law includes determining the disposition of lawsuits filed in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law, said step of transmitting data obtained from the records in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law includes transmitting data indicative of the disposition of lawsuits filed in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law to the database.

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6. A method as set forth in claim 5 further including the step of searching the database to determine the disposition of lawsuits filed by any one attorney in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law, said step of transmitting at least a portion of the data from the database to the terminals which access the database includes transmitting data indicative of the disposition of lawsuits filed by said one attorney in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law.

7. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of periodically reviewing records in a plurality of courts of law includes reviewing and manually copying records in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law.

8. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of periodically reviewing records in a plurality of courts of law includes electronically reading data stored at each court of law of the courts of the plurality of courts of law, said step of transmitting the data obtained from the records in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law includes electronically transmitting data to a data storage device.

9. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a relationship between a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits in which one attorney represented litigants in a plurality of courts of law and a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits

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decided in favor of a litigant represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits in which the one attorney represented litigants in the plurality of courts of law and the number of lawsuits decided in favor of litigants represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law.

10. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a relationship between a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits in which one attorney represented plaintiffs in a plurality of courts of law and a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits decided in favor of plaintiffs represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits in which the one attorney represented plaintiffs in the plurality of courts law and the number of lawsuits decided in favor of a plaintiff represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law.

11. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a relationship between a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits in which one attorney represented defendants in a plurality of courts of law and a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits

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decided in favor of defendants represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits in which the one attorney represented defendants in the plurality of courts of law and the number of lawsuits decided in favor of defendants represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law.

12. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits in which one law firm represented litigants in a plurality of courts of law and a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits decided in favor of litigants represented by the one law firm in the plurality of courts of law, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits in which the one law firm represented litigants in the plurality of courts of law and the number of lawsuits decided in favor of a litigant represented by the one law firm in the plurality of courts of law.

13. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a relationship between a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits in which one law firm represented plaintiffs in a plurality of courts of law and a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits decided in favor of plaintiffs represented by the one law firm in the

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plurality of courts of law, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits in which the one law firm represented plaintiffs in the plurality of courts of law and the number of lawsuits decided in favor of a plaintiff represented by the one law firm in the plurality of courts of law.

14. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a relationship between a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits in which one law firm represented defendants in a plurality of courts of law and a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits decided in favor of defendants represented by the one law firm in the plurality of courts of law, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits in which the one law firm represented defendants in the plurality of courts of law and the number of lawsuits decided in favor of defendants represented by the one law firm in the plurality of courts of law.

15. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a relationship between a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits relating to one specific type of cause of action in which one attorney represented litigants in a plurality of courts of law and a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits relating to

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the one specific type of cause of action and decided in favor of litigants represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits relating to the one specific type of cause of action and in which the one attorney represented litigants in the plurality of courts of law and the number of lawsuits relating to the one specific type of cause of action and which were decided in favor of litigants represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law.

16. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a relationship between a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits relating to one specific cause of action in which one attorney represented plaintiffs in a plurality of courts of law and a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits relating to the one specific type of cause of action and decided in favor of plaintiffs represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits relating to the one specific type of cause of action and in which the one attorney represented plaintiffs in the plurality of courts of law and the number of lawsuits relating to the one specific type of cause of action and which were decided in favor of plaintiffs

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represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law.

17. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a relationship between a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits relating to the one specific type of cause of action in which one attorney represented defendants in a plurality of courts of law and a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits relating to the one specific type of cause of action and decided in favor of defendants represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits relating to the one specific type of cause of action and in which the one attorney represented defendants in the plurality of courts of law and the number of lawsuits relating to the one specific type of cause of action and which were decided in favor of defendants represented by the one attorney in the plurality of courts of law.

18. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining the number of lawsuits in which any one attorney represented a litigant in any one of a plurality of courts of law and which resulted in a decision by a judge or a jury, determining the number of lawsuits in which the one attorney represented a litigant in any one of the plurality of courts of law and which resulted in a

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decision by a judge or a jury favorable to a litigant represented by the one attorney, determining a relationship between the number of lawsuits in which the one attorney represented a litigant and which resulted in a decision by a judge or a jury and the number of lawsuits in which the one attorney represented a litigant and which resulted in a decision by a judge or a jury favorable to a litigant represented by the one attorney, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits in which the one attorney represented a litigant and which resulted in a decision by a judge or a jury and the number of lawsuits in which the one attorney represented a litigant and which resulted in a decision by a judge or a jury favorable to a litigant represented by the one attorney.

19. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a total number of lawsuits filed by one attorney in a plurality of courts of law and the number of lawsuits settled by litigants represented by the one attorney, determining a relationship between the total number of lawsuits filed by the one attorney and the number of lawsuits settled by litigants represented by the one attorney, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits filed by the one attorney

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and the number of lawsuits settled by litigants represented by the one attorney.

20. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining the number of lawsuits relating to each of a plurality of different causes of action filed by one attorney, determining the number of lawsuits decided in favor of litigants represented by the one attorney for each cause of action of the plurality of causes of action, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the number of lawsuits relating to each cause of action of the plurality of causes of action filed by the one attorney of the plurality of attorneys and the number of lawsuits decided in favor of litigants represented by the one attorney for each cause of action of the plurality of causes of action.

21. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the step of determining the average length of time lawsuits filed by one attorney are pending in a court of law before being terminated for each of a plurality of different causes of action, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the length of time lawsuits filed by the one attorney are pending in a court of law before being terminated for each of the plurality of different causes of action.

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22. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining the number of lawsuits which were appealed from a lower court to a higher court and which involved a litigant represented by one attorney, determining the number of appeals which were decided by a higher court in favor of a litigant represented by the one attorney, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the number of lawsuits which were appealed from a lower court to a higher court and involved the one attorney and the number of appeals which were decided in favor of a litigant represented by the one attorney.

23. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the step of determining the number of lawsuits which were appealed from a lower court to a higher court and which involved one specific type of cause of action and a litigant represented by one law firm, determining the number of appeals which related to the one specific type of cause of action and were decided by a higher court in favor of a litigant represented by the one law firm, determining a relationship between the number of lawsuits which were appealed from a lower court to a higher court and which involved the one specific type of cause of action and a litigant represented by the one law firm, and the number of appeals which related to the one specific type of cause of action and were decided by a higher court in favor of a

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litigant represented by the one law firm, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits which related to the one specific type of cause of action and were appealed from a lower court to a higher court and which involved a litigant represented by the one law firm and the number of appeals which related to the one specific type of cause of action and were decided by a higher court in favor of a litigant represented by the one law firm.

24. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining the relationship between a number of lawsuits decided in favor of a plaintiff by each judge of a plurality of judges in each of a plurality of courts of law to a number of lawsuits decided by each judge of the plurality of judges, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits decided in favor of a plaintiff by each judge of a plurality of judges in each of a plurality of courts of law to the number of lawsuits decided by each judge of the plurality of judges.

25. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining the relationship between a number of lawsuits relating decided in favor of a defendant by each judge of a plurality of judges in each of a plurality of courts of law to a number of lawsuits decided by each judge of the

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plurality of judges, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits decided in favor of a defendant by each judge of a plurality of judges in each of a plurality of courts of law to the number of lawsuits decided by each judge of the plurality of judges.

26. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining a relationship between a number of lawsuits which were appealed from each judge of a plurality of judges in each of a plurality of courts to a number of appeals in which each judge of the plurality of judges was affirmed by an appellate court, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits which were appealed from each judge of the plurality of judges to the number of appeals in which each judge of the plurality of judges was affirmed by the appellate court.

27. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining the relationship between a number of lawsuits settled before trial by each judge of a plurality of judges in each of a plurality of courts of law to a number of lawsuits assigned to each judge of the plurality of judges, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits assigned to each judge of the plurality of

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judges and the number of lawsuits settled before trial by each judge of the plurality of judges.

28. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining the identity of expert witnesses for each of a plurality of different causes of action in a plurality of courts, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the identity of expert witnesses for each cause of action of the plurality of different causes of action in each of the plurality of courts.

29. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining the identity of expert witnesses for each of a plurality of different causes of action in a plurality of different courts, determining the number of lawsuits which resulted in favorable decisions for a litigant assisted by each expert witness, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the identity of expert witnesses for each cause of action of the plurality of causes of action and the number of lawsuits which resulted in favorable decisions for a litigant assisted by each expert witness.

30. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining the number of appeals from lower court decisions to each of a plurality of appeal courts, determining the outcome of appeals from lower court decisions to each of the plurality of appeal courts, and

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transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship of the number of appeals to each of the appeal courts to the outcome of the appeals to each of the plurality of appeal courts.

31. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of determining the number of appeals to a plurality of appeal courts from a plurality of lower court decisions for each of a plurality of causes of action, determining the number of appeals which were affirmed by each appeal court of the plurality of appeal courts for each cause of action of the plurality of causes of action, and transmitting from the database to at least some of the terminals of the plurality of terminals data which is a function of the number of appeals from lower court decisions for each of a plurality of causes of action and the number of appeals which were affirmed by each appeal court of the plurality of appeal courts for each of the plurality of causes of action.

32. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the step of determining the number of appeals to a plurality of appeal courts from a plurality of lower court decisions for each of a plurality of causes of action, determining the number of appeals which were reversed by each appeal court of the plurality of appeal courts for each cause of action of the plurality of causes of action, and transmitting from the database to at least some of the terminals of the

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plurality of terminals data which is a function of the number of appeals from lower court decisions for each of a plurality of causes of action and the number of appeals which were reversed by each appeal court of the plurality of appeal courts for each of the plurality of causes of action.

33. A method of disseminating information relating to litigation pending in a plurality of courts of law, said method comprising the steps of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in each of a plurality of courts of law in each of a plurality of states of the United States of America to a database, accessing the database with terminals which communicate with the database by a network, and transmitting at least a portion of the data relating to the lawsuits from the database to the terminals which access the database.

34. A method as set forth in claim 33 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in each of a plurality of courts of law in each of a plurality of states of the United States of America to a database includes transmitting data indicative of the identity of plaintiffs and defendants in all lawsuits filed within the period of time to the database.

35. A method as set forth in claim 33 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in each of a plurality of courts of law in

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each of a plurality of states of the United States of America to a database includes transmitting data indicative of the identity of the attorney or attorneys filing each of the lawsuits.

36. A method as set forth in claim 33 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in each of a plurality of courts of law in each of a plurality of states of the United States of America to a database includes transmitting data indicative of the cause of action for each of the lawsuits.

37. A method as set forth in claim 33 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in each of a plurality of courts of law in each of a plurality of states of the United States of America to a database includes transmitting data indicative of the disposition of the lawsuits.

38. A method as set forth in claim 33 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in each of a plurality of courts of law in each of a plurality of states of the United States of America to a database includes transmitting data relating to both federal and state courts.

39. A method as set forth in claim 33 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within

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a period of time in each of a plurality of courts of law in each of a plurality of states of the United States of America to a database includes electronically reading data stored at each of the courts of the plurality of courts and electronically transmitting data from each of the courts of the plurality of courts to the database.

40. A method as set forth in claim 33 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in each of a plurality of courts of law in each of a plurality of states of the United States of America to a database includes viewing and manually copying records in each court of the plurality of courts.

41. A method of disseminating information relating to litigation pending in a plurality of courts of law, said method comprising the steps of transmitting data to a database identifying the parties to lawsuits filed in a plurality of courts of law within a period of time, the attorneys representing at least one of the parties to the lawsuits filed in the plurality of courts of law within the period of time, and the causes of action of the lawsuits filed in the plurality of courts of law within the period of time, accessing the database with terminals which communicate with the database by a network, and transmitting at least a portion of the data from the database to the terminals which access the database.

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42. A method as set forth in claim 41 wherein said step of transmitting data to a database includes transmitting data indicative of the status of all lawsuits pending in the plurality of courts.

43. A method as set forth in claim 41 wherein said step of transmitting data to a database includes transmitting data identifying the judges to whom each of the lawsuits pending in the plurality of courts within the period of time are assigned.

44. A method as set forth in claim 41 wherein said step of transmitting data to a database includes transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within the period of time in a plurality of state courts and a plurality of federal courts.

45. A method as set forth in claim 41 wherein said step of transmitting data to a database includes electronically reading data stored at each of the courts of the plurality of courts and electronically transmitting data from each court of the plurality of courts to the database.

46. A method as set forth in claim 41 wherein said step of transmitting data to a database includes viewing and manually copying records in each court of the plurality of courts.

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47. A method of disseminating information relating to litigation pending in a plurality of courts of law, said method comprising the steps of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed in state and federal courts in at least a portion of at least one state of the United States of America to a database, accessing the database with terminals which communicate with the database by a network, and transmitting at least a portion of the data relating to the lawsuits from the database to the terminals which access the database.

48. A method as set forth in claim 47 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in state and federal courts of law includes transmitting data indicative of the identity of plaintiffs and defendants in all lawsuits filed within the period of time to the database from the state and federal courts of law.

49. A method as set forth in claim 47 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in state and federal courts of law to a database includes transmitting data indicative of the identity of the attorney or attorneys filing each of the lawsuits in the state and federal courts of law.

50. A method as set forth in claim 47 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in state and federal courts of law to a

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database includes transmitting data indicative of the cause of action for each of the lawsuits in the state and federal courts of law.

51. A method as set forth in claim 47 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in state and federal courts of law to a database includes transmitting data indicative of the disposition of the lawsuits.

52. A method as set forth in claim 47 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in state and federal courts of law to a database includes electronically reading data stored at each of the state and federal courts of law and electronically transmitting data from each of the state and federal courts of law to the database.

53. A method as set forth in claim 47 wherein said step of transmitting data relating to all lawsuits filed within a period of time in state and federal courts of law to a database includes viewing and manually copying records in each court of the state and federal courts of law.

54. A method of disseminating information relating to litigation pending in a plurality of courts of law, said method comprising the steps of transmitting data relating to lawsuits filed within a period of time in each of the plurality of courts

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of law to a database, said step of transmitting data includes transmitting data identifying all expert witnesses who testify in lawsuits pending in any one of the plurality of courts of law and the subject matter in regard to which the expert witnesses testify, accessing the database with terminals which communicate with the database by a network, and transmitting data from the database to the terminals identifying at least some of the expert witnesses who testified in lawsuits in the plurality of courts and the subject matter in regard to which the identified expert witnesses testified.

55. A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said step of transmitting data includes transmitting data indicative of whether or not an expert witness testified in behalf of a litigant who received a favorable decision in the litigation in which the expert witness testified.

56. A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said steps of determining a relationship between a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits in which one expert witness testified and a number corresponding to the number of lawsuits in which the one expert witness testified and which were decided in favor of a litigant on whose behalf the one expert witness testified, and transmitting data from the database to at least some of the terminals indicative of the relationship between the number of lawsuits in which the one expert witness testified and the number of lawsuits in

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which the one expert witness testified and which were decided in favor of a litigant on whose behalf the one expert witness testified.

57. A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said step of transmitting data includes electronically reading data stored at each of the courts of the plurality of courts and electronically transmitting data from each of the courts of the plurality of courts to the database.

58. A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said step of transmitting data includes viewing and manually copying records in court of the plurality of courts.

59. A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said step of transmitting data includes transmitting data relating to both federal and state courts.

60. A method of disseminating information relating to litigation in a plurality of courts of law, said method comprising the steps of transmitting data relating to all criminal lawsuits filed within a period of time in each of a plurality of courts of law to a database, said step of transmitting data includes transmitting data identifying all individuals charged with having committed a crime and the crime with which the individual is charged with having committed, accessing the database with terminals which communicate with the database by a network, and

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transmitting data from the database to the terminals
identifying at least some of the individuals charged with
having committed a crime and the crime with which the
identified individuals were charged with having committed.

61. A method as set forth in claim 60 wherein said
step of transmitting data includes transmitting data
indicative of the disposition of criminal lawsuits filed in each
court of law of the plurality of courts of law to the database.

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